

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 USPS-01 EB-07 COME-00 SAB-01

AF-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 OPR-02 IOE-00 /104 W
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O P 102011Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9260

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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STATE FOR IO/TRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PUAS, PN, PQ, PFOR, PORG

SUBJECT: PANAMA TO APPEND CANAL ZONE STATEMENT TO POSTAL
CONGRESS ACTS

REF: LIMA 2166

FROM THE HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION

SUMMARY: PANAMA HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTIONS TO APPEND TO THE
ACTS OF THE XI CONGRESS OF THE POSTAL UNION OF THE AMERICAS
AND SPAIN (PUAS) -- TO BE SIGNED THE MORNING OF MARCH 18--
A STATEMENT WHICH ASSERTS THAT PANAMA HAS NEVER CEDED THE CANAL
ZONE TO THE U.S. AND THAT, "IN CONSEQUENCE, THE TERRITORY OF
PANAMA, WHICH INCLUDE THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE, CONSTITUTES A
SINGLE POSTAL UNIT UNDER THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. THEREFORE THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA RESERVES
ALL POSTAL RIGHTS OVER THE CANAL ZONE." THE U.S. DELEGATION
REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

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1. ON MARCH 9 THE PUAS SECRETARIAT CIRCULATED AS CONGRESS

DOCUMENT 41, DATED MARCH 8, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

DECLARACION DE PANAMA

AL FIRMAR LAS ACTAS FINALES DEL XI CONGRESO DE LA UNION
POSTAL DE LAS AMERICAS Y ESPANA LA DELEGACION DE PANAMA
DECLARA:

EN NOMBRE DE LA REPUBLICA DE PANAMA

"LA REPUBLICA DE PANAMA DECLARA QUE LA ZONA DEL CANAL ES
PARTE DEL TERRITORIO DE LA REPUBLICA DE PANAMA, CUYA
SOBERANIA NO HA SIDO JAMAS CEDIDA A NINGUN PAIS, Y QUE
POR CONSIGUIENTE NO ES, NI PUEDE SER, PARTE DEL CONJUNTO
DE TERRITORIOS DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA.
EN CONSECUENCIA, EL TERRITORIO DE LA REPUBLICA DE PANAMA,
QUE INCLUYE LA ZONA DEL CANAL DE PANAMA, CONSTITUYE UNA
SOLA UNIDAD POSTAL BAJO LA ADMINISTRACION POSTAL DE LA
REPUBLICA DE PANAMA.
POR TANTO, LA REPUBLICA DE PANAMA SE RESERVA TODOS SUS
DERECHOS POSTALES SOBRE LA ZONA DEL CANAL."

LIC. JULIO ESPINO B.
JEFE DE LA DELEGACION DE PANAMA

LIMA, 8 DE MARZO DE 1976

2. IN 1974 AT LAUSANNE AT THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION
(UPU) CONGRESS, THE PANAMANIAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY THE
MINISTER OF JUSTICE, TOOK A FAR MORE POLITICAL STANCE THAN
HAS BEEN EVIDENCED AT THE PRESENT PUAS CONGRESS. NO FORMAL
RESOLUTION WAS OFFERED BUT IN SIGNING THE LAUSANNE ACTS, THE
PANAMANIAN DELEGATION APPENDED A DECLARATION TO THE EFFECT
THAT PANAMA HAD NOT ACCORDED SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL ZONE
TO ANY COUNTRY AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY THE ZONE CONSTITUTED
A SINGLE POSTAL UNIT UNDER THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF
PANAMA. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, THE U.S. DELEGATION ALSO
APPENDED A STATEMENT TO THE ACTS ASSERTING THAT WHILE IT
RECOGNIZED THE ZONE AS CONSTITUTING TERRITORY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF PANAMA, THE U.S. HAD AUTHORITY UNDER THE
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1903 TREATY TO OPERATE POSTAL SERVICE IN THE ZONE, AND
NOTING THAT THIS MATTER WAS ONE OF THE ISSUES BEING
DISCUSSED IN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

3. EXCEPT FOR THE BRIEF DEBATE ON MARCH 4 REPORTED
REFTEL, THE PUAS CONGRESS HAS SEEN UNTIL NOW A COMPLETE
ABSENCE OF PANAMANIAN RHETORIC ON THE CANAL ISSUE. WE
BELIEVE THE DELEGATES WOULD BE RELIEVED TO RECEIVE AS

MINIMUM A U.S. RESPONSE AS POSSIBLE AND, PREFERABLY, ONE COMING SO LATE IN THE CONGRESS SCHEDULE SO AS TO PRECLUDE THE LIKELIHOOD OF TRIGGERING A COUNTER RESPONSE FROM PANAMA, CUBA, PERU OR LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES.

4. THE U.S. DELEGATION REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT FOR INSTRUCTIONS AS TO AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE. IN VIEW OF THE NON-POLITICAL NATURE OF THE PUAS, WE WOULD HOPE A BRIEF DECLARATION ALONG THE LINES OF THE LAUSANNE STATEMENT OR OUR STATEMENT READ MARCH 4 COULD BE CABLED IN TIME TO BE DELIVERED TO THE CONGRESS SECRETARIAT TO BE APPENDED TO THE ACTS AT THE TIME OF THE SIGNING OF THE ACTS ON THE MORNING OF THURSDAY MARCH 18. SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT FIND IT NECESSARY TO HAVE SUCH A STATEMENT CIRCULATED TO THE OTHER DELEGATIONS AS A CONGRESS DOCUMENT BEFOREHAND (AS PANAMA HAS DONE), IT WOULD HAVE TO BE RECEIVED HERE BY SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 14. WHILE THE SECRETARIAT IS PREPARING THE FINAL ACTS, THE CONGRESS DELEGATIONS WILL BE IN CUZCO MARCH 15-17.)
DEAN

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